

32  
cont  
protein only in a mutant form which form has the activity of the corresponding native protein under culture conditions but is unstable under conditions at which the said polypeptide product remains stable; and recovering the desired product, wherein either the host cell culture or the recovered product is subjected for a sufficient period of time to conditions under which the undesired protein is unstable so as to denature the undesired protein.

B<sup>3</sup>  
3. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the conditions at which the undesired protein is denatured and the polypeptide product remains stable are temperature conditions.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein the elevated temperature is 37°C or more.

B<sup>4</sup>  
6. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the conditions at which the undesired protein is denatured and the polypeptide product remains stable are pH conditions.

B<sup>5</sup>  
10. (Amended) A recombinant cell which comprises a first nucleotide sequence which encodes a desired polypeptide under the control of regulatory elements which allow expression of said polypeptide, and wherein a gene which encodes a protein which is undesirable as a contaminant in preparations of said polypeptide product but whose activity is essential for survival or efficiency of a host cell, is mutated such that the protein expressed is unstable under conditions in which the polypeptide product remains stable.

B<sup>6</sup>  
14. (Amended) A recombinant cell according to claim 13 which comprises a recombinant *E. coli* cell.